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CHICAGO, March 9, 2011 -- Boeing Chairman, President & CEO Jim McNerney today issued the following statement after President Obama nominated Commerce Secretary Gary Locke as the next U.S. Ambassador to China:

"I applaud President Obama's decision to nominate Secretary Gary Locke as the next United States Ambassador to China. His experience as the Secretary of Commerce, the Governor of Washington state, and in various positions in the private sector will serve him well in helping to manage the United States' important and complex relationship with China.

"While leading the Department of Commerce and serving on the President's Export Promotion Cabinet, Secretary Locke has vigorously promoted the National Export Initiative, advocated for fair international trade policies, and initiated important reforms of export-control regulations. Upon confirmation, we look forward to Secretary Locke's work as our next ambassador in Beijing."

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